

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are 1-28. Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Restriction was required to one of the following groups under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group	Claims	Description
I	1-12 and 20-28	apparatus
II	13-19	method of using the apparatus

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-12 and 20-28, with traverse subject to the Rejoinder provisions of MPEP 821.04. Claims 13-19 are directed to a method of using the apparatus of Group I.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,188,808 to Lilja et al.

In Lilja '808, an impeller (6) is disclosed as being disposed in the reactor. An impeller is not a rotor. There can be a protective lane (7) and a flow reverser (8) in the reactor, but there is no disclosure that either of these structures extends the length of the reactor.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that rotor extends the length of the reactor. Because there is no disclosure of a rotor being disposed the length of the reactor in Lilja '808, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 and 20-24 are not anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,188,808 to Lilja et al.

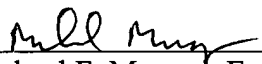
Claims 1, 10-12, and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB1358157.

GB1358157 discloses that the reactor can be positioned in a horizontal position (page 3, lines 95-104). The reactor can be positioned in a vertical or inclined position (page 3, lines 95-104), but the inlet is higher than the outlet so that flow through the reactor is assisted by gravity. The inlet (6) is in an upper portion of the reactor, and the outlet is in a lower portion of the reactor (page 3, lines 64-69). There is no disclosure of providing an inlet that is lower than the outlet so that flow is counter to gravity.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the reactor is not mounted horizontally, and the discharge means is mounted higher than the metered addition means so that a flow through the reactor is counter to gravity (support can be found on 9, line 23 to page 10, line 3). Because there is no disclosure of this arrangement in GB 1358157, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 10-12, and 25-28 are not anticipated by GB1358157.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §102 rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-12 and 20-28. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael F. Morgan, Esq. (Reg. No. 42,906)
(248) 948-2355
BASF Corporation
26701 Telegraph Road
Southfield, MI 48034-2442

Date: 29 April 2004